



**REPORT TO THE 64th MONTANA  
LEGISLATURE**

**SHEEP, MOOSE, MULE DEER, ELK AND  
MOUNTAIN GOAT AUCTION LICENSE  
ACCOUNTS**

**MCA 87-1-272 (5) (b)**

**PREPARED BY  
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**

**January 2015**

The 49th Montana State Legislature authorized the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission to auction one male sheep license each year to provide for the benefit of sheep. The 50<sup>th</sup> Montana State Legislature authorized the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission to auction one male Shiras moose license each year to provide for the benefit of moose. The 58<sup>th</sup> Montana State Legislature's provided authority for the sale of one male mule deer and one male elk auction/lottery license, the 59<sup>th</sup> session provided authority for one mountain goat auction/lottery license, and the 60<sup>th</sup> session provided authority for one wolf auction/lottery license and one grizzly bear auction/lottery license. The wolf and grizzly auction/lottery licenses are not currently allocated. Administrative Rule and procedures to conduct the auction have been adopted by the commission and have been expanded to include all five species now available. The auction/lottery license rule provides for FWP to solicit proposals to conduct the auctions (and or lottery if appropriate) from conservation organizations involved in the conservation and management of these big game species. The commission reviews the proposals and selects an organization to conduct the auctions. Organizations can submit bids to conduct more than one species auction. Statute allows the conservation organizations to retain up to 10% of auction proceeds to cover reasonable auction expenses. Organizations that have been selected to auction the various species licenses for 1997-2013 are summarized in Table 1 and include the Boone and Crocket Club, Wild Sheep Foundation (formerly the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep), Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Montana Outfitter and Guides Association, Skyline Sportsmen Association and Safari Club International (including the MT Chapter and the Great Falls chapter). The successful bidder for each of the auction licenses is allowed to hunt for a legal animal during the open season in any of the legally described species hunting districts as described in the appropriate hunting regulation.

**Table 1. License Auction Sales History.**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Org</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Org</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
<b>Sheep</b>	97	FNAWS	238,000	<b>Moose</b>	97	RMEF	17,000
	98	FNAWS	300,000		98	MOGA	14,000
	99	FNAWS	130,000		99	SSA	10,000
	00	FNAWS	95,000		00	SSA	11,000
	01	FNAWS	100,000		01	MOGA	15,000
	02	FNAWS	90,000		02	RMEF	20,000
	03	FNAWS	132,500		03	RMEF	19,000
	04	FNAWS	160,000		04	SSA	17,250
	05	FNAWS	160,000		05	BCC	15,000
	06	FNAWS	115,000		06	BCC	13,000
	07	FNAWS	140,000		07	FNAWS	20,000
	08	FNAWS	195,000		08	FNAWS	12,500
	09	WSF	245,000		09	RMEF	14,000
	10	WSF	275,000		10	RMEF	11,000
	11	WSF	290,000		11	RMEF	16,000
	12	WSF	300,000		12	RMEF	13,000
	13	WSF	480,000		13	RMEF	16,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,445,500</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>253,750</b>

<u>Species</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Org</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
<b>Mule</b>	04	MDF	6,250
<b>Deer</b>	05	MDF	6,700
	06	MDF	13,000
	07	MDF	15,000
	08	MDF	13,000
	09	MDF	8,500
	10	MDF	9,000
	11	MDF	18,000
	12	MDF	22,500
	13	MDF	<u>20,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>131,950</b>

<u>Species</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Org</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
<b>Elk</b>	04	RMEF	20,000
	05	RMEF	23,000
	06	RMEF	36,000
	07	RMEF	27,000
	08	RMEF	17,000
	09	RMEF	16,000
	10	RMEF	12,000
	11	RMEF	19,000
	12	RMEF	23,000
	13	RMEF	<u>27,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>220,000</b>

<u>Species</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Org</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
<b>Mtn</b>	06	RMEF	13,500
<b>Goat</b>	07	RMEF	9,000
	08	RMEF	9,000
	09	WSF	10,000
	10	SCI - GT Falls	17,000
	11	SCI - GT Falls	11,500
	12	SCI - GT Falls	23,500
	13	SCI - GT Falls	<u>18,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>111,500</b>

BBC = Boone & Crockett Club  
 FNAWS = Foundation for North American Wild Sheep  
 MDF = Mule Deer Foundation  
 MOGA = Montana Outfitters & Guides Association

RMEF = Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
 SSA = Skyline Sportsmen Association  
 SCI – GT Falls = Safari Club International – GF

**Budgeted Allocations and Expenditures:**

As prescribed by enabling legislation, funding is to be used for the beneficial management of the identified species. Funding is typically allocated for specific survey work to deal with localized issues, capture and relocation efforts, research efforts, habitat enhancement, enhanced monitoring, and herd health issues. In the case of bighorn sheep, a portion of the funding is allocated to a capital account for habitat protection. For FY12–13, funding by species was allocated as follows:

<b>BIG GAME AUCTION EXPENDITURES FY12 – FY13</b>			
	<u><b>FY12</b></u>	<u><b>FY13</b></u>	<u><b>TOTAL</b></u>
Mountain Sheep Auction - Field Work	\$ 223,584.00	\$ 63,380.00	\$ <b>286,964.00</b>
Mountain Sheep Auction – Capital	\$ 427,068.00	\$ -	\$ <b>427,068.00</b>
Mountain Sheep Auction – Auction Commission	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ <b>78,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 680,652.00</b>	<b>\$ 111,380.00</b>	<b>\$ 792,032.00</b>
Moose Auction - Field Work	\$	\$ 29,000.00	\$ <b>29,000.00</b>
Moose Auction – Auction Commission	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ <b>2,900.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 31,900.00</b>
Mule Deer Auction – Auction Commission	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ <b>4,250.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,250.00</b>
Elk Auction - Field Work	\$ 4,910.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ <b>14,910.00</b>
Elk Auction – Auction Commission	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ <b>5,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,210.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,910.00</b>
Mountain Goat Auction – Auction Commission	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ <b>4,100.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,100.00</b>

**Accomplishments:****Bighorn Sheep**

**2012:** Capture, health sample, and transplant 49 bighorn sheep (BHS) from Wild Horse Island for release in the Tendoy Mountains to augment an existing population. Collect biological samples from live-captured sheep in the Tendoy Mountains. Fulfill a contract with MSU Ecology Department faculty to analyze bighorn sheep recruitment rates over time. Annual weather conditions, ecotypes, and population sizes are associated with recruitment rates in Montana sheep, but the primary driver appears to be disease-related die-offs, which reduce recruitment in sheep herds for years following their occurrence. Purchase the Full Curl Wildlife Management Area for bighorn sheep winter range in northwest Montana.

**2013:** Field efforts related to bighorn sheep research, health and population monitoring, and reviewing a potential bighorn transplant into the Bridger Mountains.

**Moose:**

**2013:** FWP initiated an investigation into moose populations in Montana. Results will provide insight into the status and trend of moose populations, which environmental factors are driving the trend, and effective moose population monitoring methods.

**Mule Deer:**

No authorized capital or field expenditures in either year.

**Elk:**

**2012:** Minor equipment purchased to support field monitoring efforts.

**2013:** Ten GPS radio collars were purchased for elk research project in the Missouri River Breaks to examine the effect of hunter access on elk distribution in the Missouri River Breaks during hunting season.

**Mountain Goat:**

No authorized capital or field expenditures in either year.

All auction accounts reflect the statutorily authorized auction commission retained by the conservation organization that conducted the auction. Auction proceeds are often banked to assist efforts/purchases that are uniquely different or larger than routine efforts and expenditures. In addition to habitat conservation efforts, this includes trap/transplant, research, monitoring, and significant field equipment purchases.